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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3292
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC 8126
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5364
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 9216
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5257
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHMMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SEOUL 000256

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/PD FOR SWALKER, EAP/P, EAP/K
STATE PASS USDA ELECTRONICALLY FOR FAX/ITP SCHEIKH
STATE PASS USTR FOR RCASSIDY
USDOC FOR 4430/IEP/OPB/EAP/JDONIUS
TREASURY FOR OASIA/MGREWE
CINCPAC FOR J-74

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [ECON](#) [KS](#) [US](#) [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION IN SEOUL

Subject: Media Reaction; Seoul

Secretary Clinton's Trip to Asia

"Secretary Clinton's Visit to Seoul Should Enhance ROK-U.S.
Cooperation"

Moderate Hankook Ilbo editorialized (02/19): "North Korea is gearing up to fire a Taepodong-2 missile despite the concerns and warnings of the international community. The ROK and the U.S. should send a strong message against North Korea's provocative behavior during Secretary Clinton's visit. The ROK and the U.S., despite their colorful rhetoric about strengthening bilateral ties in a forward-looking manner, have had many differences of opinion and conflicts over major pending issues. We hope that this meeting will lead the two nations to expand their common ground on important bilateral issues, including the ratification of the KORUS FTA and mutual cooperation on the international stage."

Afghanistan

"Don't Even Think About Dispatching Troops to Afghanistan"

Left-leaning Hankyoreh Shinmun editorialized (02/19): "The U.S. decision to send more troops to Afghanistan might lead the country to repeat the same mistake it did in its failed occupation of Iraq. The Afghanistan problem cannot be resolved by taking the ill-considered position that more troops should be dispatched to stabilize a deteriorating situation in Afghanistan. If the U.S. ultimately aims to leave al-Qaeda isolated and defenseless, it should broadly reexamine its existing strategy and seek an international consensus. It would be wrong (for the U.S.) to simply increase its military presence in Afghanistan and ask for additional troops from other countries, without thinking hard about what is a reasonable and effective Afghanistan policy. The ROKG is reviewing ways to quadruple the number of its Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) personnel in Afghanistan to some 100. However, this should never pave the way for the ROK to dispatch its troops to Afghanistan."

Stephens